Ms.
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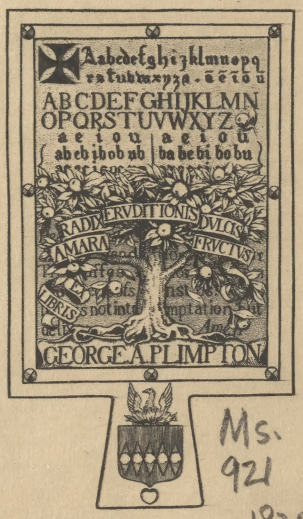
10

403 _____ 443

403/ 5th continuation.

from 401/ set it



Ms.
921
1820
vol. 10

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at rest; except with those who can no more be expected to part with a preconceived opinion than an old scholiast could to undervalue the logic of Thomas Aquinas.

"In reply to your enquiry, I have much pleasure in stating, that in the opinion of the most able, scientific & successful navigators, the invaluable invention of Mr. John Harrison stands unrivalled by any other mode of ascertaining the longitude at sea, & that for the best reasons. In the first place there are many men of great science who, from some personal imperfection, cannot accurately measure the distance between the moon & the sun, or a star, where a trifling error is of great consequence; when he must of course depend for accuracy on another. You will at once see how far this goes in comparison, and it is not unusual for the nicest observers to express their doubts on that point; & in a fleet, the results of the observations on board different ships will often vary from thirty to forty miles; under the most favorable circumstances. Besides it not unfrequently happens in Tropical climates, that the best practical observer is unwell & cannot act, when the desired object becomes very uncertain; but not so with the chronometer, for any person who can take an altitude, can determine the longitude: & I have never known a navigator, who had any opinion worth notice, that [redacted] has not expressed his entire confidence in those admirable machines, & depended on his lunar observations in proportion to their approach to the time-piece, to which he has always looked as his surest guide.

"This I am quite sure is not only my opinion, from positive experience, but that of every officer in the navy,

404

"had on the subject

New paragraph Some remarks are added, denoting Lieut. Howe's dissent from Mr. Croker's opinion on the points at issue; who he thinks lays more stress on scientific accomplishments, than on the practical utility that outweighs them.

Pamph
with who

New paragr. Dr. Maskelyne

like "Eastern priests in giddy circles." ~~mmmmmmmmmmmm~~

" who has witnessed the amazing accuracy of the chronometer,
" & the ease with which it is kept. — In a conversation I once
[redacted] with the then oldest Captain in the East India service
" he expressed his apprehensions that the rising officers in
" that service would be induced to lay aside their astrono-
" -mical acquirements altogether, as the chronometer ren-
" -dered navigation so easy that a woman could take a ship
" to Calcutta. He had been fifty years in that service, & largely
" expatiated on the improvements in navigating since the intro
" -duction of time-pieces. This was in 1812, & he spoke from
" an experience of thirty years practice with chronometers.
[redacted]

¶ 29 Δ At every turn men [redacted] are met ~~the~~
remind us of the old notion of a [redacted] town about
to be besieged; when it was consulted how to fortify it; & the
mason, the carpenter & the currier advised each as best suit
-ed his interest. Perhaps this common place has seldom been
better illustrated than by the pertinacity with which the Astr
-onomer Royal gives his own craft ~~the precedence, respecting~~ Z ☐ 524
~~that wholesome proverb, "the proof of the pudding is in the~~
~~"eating of it." He~~ may be allowed to have deceived himself
like a woman in love, whose easy credulity makes her take
for granted what she wishes to be true: but the Author has
found it very different on applying for information, on this
subject, to scientific men, who were not run away with
by a favourite system, ~~to which they sacrificed any other~~
~~[illegible]~~. One of the ablest Astrono
-mers we had, the reverend John, Barnes Emmett of Hull,
(whose merit was well known at Cambridge) ~~would not~~
~~allow there was any comparison~~ thought that two or three

Minor Note at ☐406 In a quarrel between two Ladies (Mrs Fitzherbert & Miss Paget) well known at the west end of the town, in their day, & [redacted] the former of whom had much injured the other by unfounded jealousy — "she felt that she had "wronged her, cruelly wronged her, yet consistently with "that most singular trait in the human character, she "could not, as the injurer, be brought to forgive her "friend, whereas the forgiveness lay entirely on the "part of the latter."

Newfoundland

at the antipodes [redacted] stop here

Not always so, for between them & the younger Harrison, [redacted] the Professors astronomers: & it has been shown it was usual to [redacted] call in Captain Campbell to decide disputed points. The opinion of that Officer, it is remarkable, was always in favour of the Mechanic. — If they ventured, on their return to College, to relate how they were dismissed by this nautical

Chronometers in a ship of war, correcting each other, were beyond comparison more valuable than any dependance that can be placed on Lunar observations; the proper use of which when they can be had, is for the correction of any casual irregularity in the Time-piece. — In such a definition of powers only a secondary place in the scale of importance, we may suppose Dr. Maskelyne would sooner have parted with his sextant than attested such a heterodox article of [illegible] belief.

The affair between Mr. Mudge, junior & the Astronomer Royal gave occasion for a curious & important illustration of the superiority of mechanism being appealed to, by the former. — Admiral Campbell was on his return from [illegible], with a fleet of men of war; & having a Timekeeper by Mudge with him, carried a press of sail in the night as they were approaching the Scilly Rocks, to the great dismay of the other Commanders, who, their reckonings being up, were in dread every moment of the fate of Sir Cloudesly Shovel. — It is almost superfluous to add that this Officer, who, we learn from Dr. Maskelyne was a skilful astronomer, would certainly never have thought of placing the same dependance on the best Lunar observation he could get: if the Moon was not then in her zenith

[illegible]

in the discussions which took place [illegible] gave much cause to doubt their proficiency as practical [illegible]

4

406 / ~~Commissioners of the ... & whose ... ... in favour of the Mechanism, always decided the question at issue~~ Umpire, it is likely it would produce some scenes which a Sterne, or a Moliere, was wanting to ~~avoid~~ preserve. ~~given for the~~

from 00550 — it would appear, this opposition of interests continued with aggravated consequences: for about twenty years after Mr. Mudge brings the Doctor forward, as if he would remind us of late "giving his little senate laws". He knew to ✗ below

beyond a a scanty portion of

-lized in behalf of the Astronomer Royal

.

~~Insert at~~ Dr. Maskelyne for a purpose

~~... The extensive patronage shows ... ... from 00550 — it would appear this opposition of interests ... of the Commissioners ... his little senate laws ... continued with aggravated ... to £500 ... for Mr. Mudge, who knew~~

✗ nothing of Lord Morton, ~~makes~~ yet shows the Astronomer Royal nearly the counterpart of that despotic & all accomplished manager, by assuring the other Commissioners that he had no disrespect for, nor imputed blame to any of them, inasmuch as he considers Dr. Maskelyne the sole cause of the ill treatment his father had experienced. ~~to £500 two paragraphs~~

~~Gentlemen [illegible] must have been at times amused by the total ignorance of sea affairs (unconnected with the [illegible] of the Timekeepers) which their [illegible] of which a singular specimen [illegible] Journal~~.

§34 Δ It was a source of frequent anguish to the Claimant, that while he had to fight his way unceasingly against an opposition ever resorting to the stale pretext, that they were careful of the public money, he knew & saw that no regard was paid to that consideration, if pecuniary aid was wanted for a scheme which, while the laws of nature remain the same, can never be available ~~beyond a few days in the~~ each month. That ignorance of the marine, conspicuous in the other gownsmen from Cam & Isis, could not be al~~leged in behalf of Dr. Maskelyne~~, who had twice crossed the line; yet when Mr. Mudge, wrote, about two decennaries after the date of this pamphlet, he informs us that £25,000 (& all the patronage connected with it) had passed through the hands of ~~the Astronomer Royal for Longitude~~ (we add) of such equivocal advantage to the seaman, that it is never [illegible] regarded, if he expects to fall in with ~~[illegible]~~ land. to ◇ ~~[illegible]~~ newspaper. at ▣ 500

§30 ‡ So he was, by his own account, when at Barbados; where a curious scene occurs (~~detailed in the history of the Timepiece~~ given in the Preface ~~[illegible]~~) which explains the tendency of the Examination thus commented on, if we have recourse to a dry Spanish proverb, quoted in Croxall's Esop; viz. "The man who has injured you, will "never forgive you." to ▭ 405 to ⊖ 540

§19 W Yet the details both of this & of subsequent passages in his singular history would have been sufficiently amusing, & not a little instructive; for he had fully experienced the hos-

Minor Note at ⊕ It is contended, in the Vicar of Wakefield, that an ignorant peasant, however honest, cannot be deemed so noble a work of God as a Newton. — Without interfering with the argument, may it not be said that the instance of Newton is neutralized by that of Bacon,

The wisest, brightest, meanest of mankind?

despotic power engrafted

& its consequences to ⊕ 576

-lility of those Commissioners, ~~nominally~~ of learned design-
-ations, who, like that opprobrium of history, Hanno the Carthaginean, had more respect for their own opinions than the good of their country; who were openly opposed to the success of the Mechanics; & who refused him to name a check on the computations, after the first voyage, although the commonest sense of equity called for it: so that Goldsmith's stricture on Pope's sentiment —

An honest man's the noblest work of God, —

might have been successfully refuted here; for they were not honest pothouse coblers, or carters, who paid so little regard to meum & tuum, but literary men, in holy orders, whose private passions & propensities were so self-ended, that many a man in the lowest grade of society might have been found fit to be deemed a nobler work of God, according to the Poet's standard. — But never was genius seen contending with ~~[illegible]~~ on ignorance (an ignorance of mechanics certainly) more remarkably than in the consummate effrontery of James Earl of Morton, ~~[illegible] This northern Peer, who is known to the public only by having been a few winters President of the Royal Society, a situation [illegible] for which he must have been more beholden to his rank & fortune, or to a concurrence of circumstances of which [illegible] is left, than to any [illegible] commensurate with such a promotion, might have left undisturbed with his renowned forefathers, had not the case of John Harrison made it necessary to drag his mortal remains into the noontide glare; for it is discovered that he was the principal, if not indeed the sole cause of the reward not having been paid after the second voyage, & of a wrong direction being given to the [illegible] labours of the Claimant, equally to the injury of the individual & the country at large.~~

4

408 ~~[illegible] This earnest attention paid by the Board Government to the subject — came in a tangible shape; for shortly after the payment of the first half of the reward, & being aware that they had only to wait a few months for the publication of the principles & construction of the time keeper, they sent~~

when, in 1818,
were all of them Astronomers & Mathematicians

as associate in
chronometry.

to join against the common enemy: & from which John Harrison so often drank the cup of bitterness. The Note to end here in Minor edition

~~over M. Berthoud, the best Watchmaker in Paris, to purchase the secret, if he could, of the Inventor, but who, as the Gentlemen who received the explanation were by the agreement strictly enjoined to secrecy, would not attend to the proposal, unless in an open & undisguised manner. He wrote to Sir Charles Saunders (then at the head of the Admiralty) in consequence. The conduct of the other parties concerned ill accorded with the consistent rectitude that restrained him from attending to the Parisian, for in a few weeks after the disclosure the subject found its way into the newspapers &c. the Rev.d William Ludlam taking the lead.~~

~~The mention of M. Berthoud, latterly a Member of the French Board of Longitude~~ from W 586, suggests that our Neighbours seem to have been desirous to profit by a proceeding so sinister & defective as that of making one class of candidates for arriving at the Longitude exclusive judges of the merits of another, more likely in the opinion of the great Newton to accomplish that object; yet they had no representative or advocate [illegible] to look after their interests. This defect, although so obvious, & exciting the attention of foreigners, M.r Croker unaccountably transfered to the new Board, [illegible] he remodelled the Commission; for the scientific members [illegible] without [illegible] of eminence in the Theory & practice of [illegible]

It may be said there would be a jealousy among men in that line of pursuit; but the rivalry in all professions is essentially different from that _esprit du corps_ which unites them ~~to join against the common enemy~~. From this concentrated opposition John Harrison experienced the most illiberal treatment, which the framers of the 12.th of Queen Anne never foresaw; yet the pressure of disappointment was not so heavy on him prior

a pleasant fellow we knew, that, in his cups, was equal to any thing between heaven & earth,

John Cust, it has been seen, detected & resisted this nefa-rious oppression, in behalf of the unfortunate Claimant; but he seems to have been unable to induce the other Ad-ocians & the Admirals to shake off their indolent ac-quiescence in the resolves of a personage whom they have left it to be supposed they must needs have thought vastly ++ clever, because he was President of the Royal Society.

++ Minor note Had Lord Chesterfield seen this, it would have required an apology, as he was ~~of opinion~~ for having the word vastly excluded from the dictionary of a gentleman.

New paragraph This part of the subject having insensi-bly led to it, we are induced to observe that the Doctor, in his dispute with Mr Mudge takes occasion to say that the voyage to Jamaica was rendered nugatory" for want "of the rate of the Watch having been previously settled "by astronomical observations." This made the Author turn immediately to the instructions for the voyage, expecting to find the first article in them related to the obser-vations ~~in reference, & imagining he had overlooked it before~~; which were directed to be taken to determine to ++ 526

to the return from Barbados as when that anomalous cha-racter, a Douglass without a spark of chivalrous magnani-mity in his composition, who like [redacted], ordered matters as to him seemed good, without the least regard to the opinion of any other person, although his own came under the imputation of a [redacted] mean & pitiful revenge, & was sup-ported by allegations that could not possibly be confirmed. In

¶ 15 Δ [redacted] In his answer to [redacted] M.r Mudge [redacted] D.r Maskelyne fancied he had an avenue of escape, by appealing to the commonplace resort, that it is impossible to please every body; & alleging that Harrison & Mudge did not agree on the point. But his antagonist clearly shows him inconsistent in his efforts. He had thought a rate deduced from nine days going, & ap-plied to a trial of six weeks quite insufficient; & yet he afterwards found that a rate, taken from one month & applied to six was proper enough: [redacted] for ten days. that one month bears a less proportion to six, than nine days do to six weeks.

¶ 16 ¶ This was Captain (afterwards Admiral) Camp-bell. As often as disputes occurred between the young-er Harrison & the University Gentlemen, on points connected with the observations to be taken, this Officer was called in, & his decision was always unfortunate for the Professors of abstract sciences, as our Candidate cal-led them: taking the liberty to observe that, as such, they were not proper judges of the questions before them. — As Captain Campbell makes his appearance

It ought to be observed, that he was fully indemnified by the Commissioners ( ) for the expence he had been put to in the prouring of that Act, which could not have been looked for, if it failed of its intent through the contumacious refusal of the Candidate to conform to its provisions, & not from the ignorance & obstinacy of the Manager in existing or impossibilities, as was the fact. — Setting aside the Lunar party, [redacted] to whom he was an especial friend, while he was too dense to see it, it is wonderful that no gentleman asked where the funds were to come that would be indispensably necessary according to his Lordship's construction of this measure. Were they either too ill informed, or too indolent in a case which not one of them would have endured a moment, had it been his own, & in which the payment of £17,500 [redacted] was made to depend on the evidence, or information of a character whom the slightest cross examination would have sent — to Purgatory. Sir John Cust who, as Speaker of the Commons, was a Commissioner at this period, should be excepted. The evidence preserved indicating that he was no dupe to the shallow pretensions & vast deserts of a President of the Royal Society, who seems to have understood common business no better than Nicholas Gimcrack, the Virtuoso in the Tatler.

The Nabobman there has been so often occasion to introduce unfavourably for his memory was not now living, the Author can only express his regret that the necessary consistency of his purpose — to explain the causes which [redacted] eventually led to the interference of George 3d. in the case of John Harrison — so often constrain

4 411/

This Noblemar

-ed him to reflect on the conduct of James Earl of Morton with a contempt which, from the documents be-
-fore him, he thought well merited. — There could be no inducement to write what few would read; the peculiar-
-ities of a descendant of the Douglas's who died above sixty years ago, nearly unknown to fame, could not be expect-
-ed to excite much curiosity, or to be found of sufficient interest to keep attention awake, any further than they were connected to bear up a more important subject.
The private letters of Dean Swift, which derive their consequence from having been written by that celebrated man, are a case in point. In one of them a ~~Courtier~~ Courtier of Queen Anne's ~~court~~ circle, who seems to have resembled the character of Nasidienus in Horace is exposed to the caustic ridicule of the Dean, who, after having been often invited, one day took his dinner with this Aristocrat, & then describes the fare; "his wine was poison, his carps were raw, "& his candles tallow: yet with all this the puppy has £14.000 "a year. I will take care how he catches me so again: besides "every body has laughed at me for dining with him." — The publishers of these letters, & the editor, D.r Hawkesworth, had no more intention to disturb the descendants, or the representatives of ~~the Douglas~~, than the present writer has to annoy the respectable inheritor of the title & estates of Morton, with whom, or with whose connections, he neither is, nor ever was acquainted, or has any concern: — & who will certainly allow that in all ages & genealogies there are fools, as well as wise men, & both good & bad characters: a Truism which Addison undoubtedly had in mind when he gave us the portraits in the gallery at Coverley Hall.
There is another view of the difficulty above, which may be succinctly given. — During the feverish time (as it proved)

in consequence [redacted] to commerce institute

Minor Note at ++ The resemblance between this grievance, & the famous complaint of Charles 2. about certain pictures, in his manifesto of the second Dutch war, is too striking to be overlooked.

Minor Note at * In Peter this was sheer ignorance, but in Buonaparte, it would be difficult to say it was otherwise than undisguised insolence.

the peace of Amiens, to wit. Buonaparte formally complained to our Government of a libel from the English press, entitled (we think) The Apotheosis of Napoleon. Directions were given to the Attorney General [redacted] proceedings [redacted] against the Author, a French emigrant; & the jury being perhaps biassed by a desire to prevent so uncouth a cause of political umbrage,++ [redacted] & willing to soothe a puppy of a different description from Swift's Host, found the defendant guilty. But he was not called up for judgment, because the arrogant Corsican refused to accept the punishment in that mode, & required [redacted] it should be the summary act of the Executive, like Peter the great, on a well known occasion.* However being elevated by this success against the Poet, he attempted to be revenged on Sir Robert Wilson in the same way for the worthless figure he often cuts makes in the Egyptian campaigns of that Officer; but the his application was promptly resisted by the British Cabinet, on the ground that those affairs were matter of legitimate historical discussion, which could not be interfered with without suppressing that freedom of enquiry which it is the common interest of the civilized world [redacted] to promote. — This designation, or definition, answers precisely to the History of the Transactions &c. herewith. For the strictures on some of the characters brought forward in the narrative, however severe, cannot but be thought the result of fair historical research, & were properly called for, in the Author's opinion, by the circumstances that suggest them.

from 00549 ~~His Lordship seems to have been~~ lucky in escaping the ken of the English Aristophanes, as Foote was often called,

and repter-
-ish his ~~purse~~ purse, which was often below par. ~~[illegible]~~

Insert at △ (maugre his knowledge of peerage)

find out. — With something illustrating these crops-pur-
-poses

perhaps rare

Insert at ++ (as he had before done
from the College in Warwick Lane)

Harrison is happily supplied, in a considerable degree,

who was always on the look out for some farcical display, whereby to ~~recruit his finances, &~~ edify the galleries ~~John Bull. To him~~ It would have been a good thing to have got hold of a Philosopher employing workmen ~~[illegible]~~ (conformably to his counsel) at an expence of ~~forty~~ 40 or ~~fifty~~ 50 pounds a week, but without any funds to pay them; these he was to borrow of Lady Pantweasel, Dr. Last, or Major Sturgeon, if he could; if he could not, he must go to a spunging house, perdue △ ~~maugre his privilege of peerage~~; from whence he is redeemed by some goodnatured Nabob; to whom he gives, as security, a secret which all the mechanics in London would not be able to ~~[illegible]~~, this dramatic humourist ~~popular genius~~ would have ex-tracted some mirth at the expence of the Royal Society, by eulogizing their choice of a President, whom he would ~~have~~ equalled to ~~with~~ James 1st ~~in~~ for experimental philosophy: &, for every thing else, ~~with~~ to the oracular head which Friar Bacon was so long in fabricating. return to ~~~~ 549

from ~~~~ 572 new paragraph

~~Appendix No 3~~ The want of the original journal of Willia ~~Harrison is happily supplied~~ by an account of the voyage after leaving Madeira, which he sent to his father-in-law about a week from his arrival at home. It is dated, London April 10th 1762. The details will not be thought tedious by those who interest them-selves in this first regular experiment to solve a problem which had so much excited the attention, & exercised the ingenuity of sci-entific men ~~for several~~ in the preceding centuries. — The beginning & the conclusion of this letter being wholly of a family nature are omitted: passing by this, he proceeds — "I have but little time, "& my voyage home has been such a one as tongue cannot ut-"-ter, nor pen express; therefore it will be but a very imperfect "idea that I shall be able to note down; but I thank the Almighty

" God that he hath through his infinite goodness given me once
" more an opportunity to write to you from this place (which some
" time ago I never expected) & at the same time to crown me
" with greater success than could any ways be imagined, consider
" -ing what we have undergone."

" My Wife some time ago sent you a copy of a letter
" I wrote to her from Madeira, which gave you an account of my
" voyage to that place, & of the success of the Watch; so that I
" shall now only give you the particulars of the voyage from that
" Island to Jamaica, & from Jamaica to England again."

" We sailed from Madeira on the 18th. of December, & saw
" no land till the 11th. of January; when about half an hour after
" six in the morning we saw the Island of Desirada. In our voyage
" from Madeira to this place my reckoning by the Watch was kept
" a secret; for we found, was it known, that all the reckonings
" in the ship would be corrected by it, if I made it public. There-
" fore Capt. Digges, Mr. Robison (who was the Gentleman sent
" down with me) & myself, agreed that nobody should know the
" account the Watch gave but ourselves, till we should be near
" making land. On the 10th. of January, in the afternoon, I had a
" very good observation; & according to the Watch, & supposing
" the wind to continue to blow as it then did, we should
" see the Island of Desirada next morning, about 10 o'clock; The
" Captain & I agreed that this afternoon (being the 10th.) I should tell
" all the Officers where we were by the Watch, & that I expected
" to see the land next day. Accordingly I stated so, which very
" much surprised them; for, according to the nearest of their
" reckonings they were one hundred & fifty miles further from the
" Island than I was: but they did not at all dispute my being
" right, I having already given them an instance of it at Madeira.

Note at ◻ Being writing to a person not much conversant with the subject, he has not mentioned and deducted the rate of going for the time.

" Accordingly about half past six o'clock in the morning of the
" 11.th we saw the land; which was only about three hours sooner
" than I expected. The correctness of the Watch amazed them
" very much. — [The islands of Guadaloupe, Antigua, Mont-
" -serrat, Rock-dondo, Nevis, & St. Christophers, Eustacia & Saba,
" Hispaniola & Albovato, are severally mentioned, with the
" dates on which they were in sight, but as it was not necessary
" to appeal to the Timekeeper, we pass on.] On the 18.th about 12
" o'clock at noon, we saw the Island of Jamaica, & on the 19.th
" about five in the afternoon, we came to an anchor at Port
" Royal.

" On the 20.th we went on shore to fix on a proper place
" to make the observations for trying the correctness of the
" Watch; but it was the 26.th before we got a proper place
" built up; when we got a good observation, & found that the
" Watch in all this time (that is, since the last observation
" at Portsmouth) had erred two minutes & thirty six
" seconds, in ten weeks: which answered the purpose just as
" well as if it had been entirely correct. ◇

" On the 27.th of January at 5 o'clock in the evening
" I took the Watch on board the Merlin sloop of 18 guns,
" Capt.n Burke, who was under orders to sail express for
" England; & accordingly at five in the morning of the 28.th
" they weighed & sailed out of the harbour of Port Royal.
[Here the writer notes in their order the islands of Nava-
" -sa Hispaniola, Cuba, Tortuga, Nencago, Achilles's Key, For-
" -tune & Crooked Island, & continues] In the evening, February
" -ary 10.th we saw Bird Island; & from that time till the 24.th of
" March we saw no land, nor did we expect to see any, & we
" then, according to my reckoning by the Watch, made the Liz-

and within 10 miles of what I expected. — I have already observed to you, that the Watch made an error of 2 minutes & 36 seconds in going to Jamaica; which error I could very well account for, as it is not in so perfect a state as we could make it; but the Commissioners to ++ 417 wished to know what it would do in its present state. This error was occasioned by the motion of the ship causing the balance of the Watch to vibrate somewhat slower, which would affect its going in proportion. It was a part that we had not quite adjusted, as we declared to the Commissioners before I went to Jamaica, so that they as well as ourselves believed it would go somewhat too slow, when at sea. & consequently the more the ship was tossed, the slower it must go, if its going was uniform in other respects. And as we had the most turbulent passage home that was possible; in consequence it went slower then in the voyage out; I supposed that would be about double as much, & accordingly found it so. But to all in the ship it was the greatest miracle that it kept going at all; for I was obliged to place it in the cabin, quite astern, upon the seat or counter; & when we lay to, which we were very often obliged to do, under a balanced mizen, it received such a shock from the breaking of the waves under the counter, that it was just the same as if I had taken the box in my hand & thrown it from one side of the cabin to the other. Now I placed it nearer the midship, it would not have undergone what it did with respect to motion, but then it would have been worse upon another account; for it would have proved impossible for me to have kept the salt water out of it, which was the reason of my placing it where I did.

In a printed account of the voyage, it is stated in addition, that the reckonings of some of the ships in the convoy differed no less than 5 degrees from that by the Tondscapes.

" For that, as the Captain told me, was the driest place in
" the ship; yet it was far from being dry, for sometimes
" when a sea struck us, the water would spurt in at every
" seam, & it was not rare to have two feet of water upon our
" deck, & six inches in the Captain's cabin. Seven or eight times
" we sprung a leak, but through God's mercy we as often got it
" stopped, though sometimes we had a great deal of pumping
" first, & it was as much as we could do to keep our ship
" above water. We broke our rudder in a hard gale, but it
" pleased God to send us three or four hours of moderate
" weather to mend it again. And then came on the heaviest
" gale that ever man on board had seen; we had nothing to
" look to, but that every wave, as it came, would carry us
" to the bottom; but thank God, it was not to be so. We
" were near six weeks without an inch of dry deck; & half
" that time never had a topsail set for two hours together,
" & all [illegible] that we could do was to lie to under a balanced
" mizen & reefed mainsail, or to scud under a reefed foresail
" our topgallant masts & yards being taken down, & our topmasts
" lowered, with our topsail yards upon the cap. — I could give you
" a longer history, but time will not permit, as I am very
" busy getting a Committee. [He means a Board of Longitude.]

Note at + 414 ~~The Author does not recollect to have met with this obvious & important fact in any of the tracts that appeared on the subject; viz. that while they were nearing this Island by the Timekeeper, the best reckonings on board made them 50 leagues off!~~

Note at ++ 416 If we understand, by this word, the

then they would have sung out, that since it had resulted

—chart being, ~~to find the Longitude by the moon~~ furnished
with Professor Mayer's Tables, which had been imported in
1756, to find the Longitude by the Moon —

scientific character

predominant party at the Board, which would be proper enough, their motives for waiting "to know what the Watch "would do in its present state" although the young man does not appear to question them, at this time, were not very candid; for if they desired the trial should succeed to the fullest extent, would they not have advised the Candidate to make his watch as perfect as he could? Had the timekeep-er, from some imperfect adjustment, failed to come not only within the least, but the greatest limits prescribed, they would have congratulated him on its per-formance being so nearly within the terms of the bet, and expressed their belief that, but for the circumstance mentioned, it would have become entitled to £20,000; but [illegible] Wherein, it was out of their power to offer him more than another trial when he should be prepared for it.

Now it turns out that, about this time, the rev. Nevil Maskelyne B. D. afterwards (at Barbados) the avowed rival of the Candidate, was making a private voyage to St. Helena, on a mer-chant ship then unknown to the Harrisons', & which it becomes extremely difficult to acquit the mathematical Commission-ers of contributing to the expenses of, out of the funds at their disposal, unless some unknown [illegible] was assisting in this crop-purpose: for [illegible] There is no voucher that the young Astronomer's private fortune was likely to encourage him to such an enterprize.

Some Account of John Harrison; supplementary to those found in the various Encyclopædia's in current circulation: including a few particulars of his Son, William, who bore so conspicuous a part in the enterprize for discovering the Longitude at sea.

The common desire to trace a respectable, if not a distinguished ancestry leads here only to the probability that the progenitors of John Harrison were settled at Pontefract, or in that neighbourhood some centuries prior to his own birth. A Vicar of this surname occurs in 1489, but the first tangible evidence we come at seems afforded by the Parliamentary order to demolish the celebrated Castle of this town; for among the workmen employed is John Harrison, who contracts to take down the Round Tower &c. From the presumed occupation, of a builder, being the same with that of Henry Harrison, the father of our Mechanic, the Author concludes him to have been the Grandfather of the latter. That one or more individuals of the family were conversant with the mensuration of time is inferred from a sundial with the name of Harrison, as the maker, being to be seen in the gardens of Sir Rowland Winn about sixty years ago, if it does not still remain there. — Our subject always believed himself related to Alderman Harrison of Leeds, a celebrated philanthrophist like "The Man of Ross," in Charles 2.ds Time: consonant with which persuasion the arms borne on the seal of his Son, when in the commission of the peace, were taken from a window of St. John's Church in that town, being those of the Founder, the distinguished citizen spoken of. The Author is not a-

sense of rectitude, combined with his extraordinary genius

Of the compass joint or the blade and spring

-ware of any genealogy that supports the connexion; it shows however that John Harrison, in common with Dr. Johnson, the American Franklin, & other eminent men, desired to be thought to have come of good kin. Whatever was his ancestry, more honour accrued to him from his strict, & even romantic [redacted] than the heralds college could have supplied. He took a pleasure in acknowledging his obligations to the Clergy-man who lent him a MS copy of Professor Saunderson's Lectures. These he copied with surprising care & neatness, if we re-collect it could only be done at those intervals his ordina-ry occupations allowed; or by deducting from meal times, & by sitting up whole nights at his task, if it be not ir-regular to call it so, for although completed under such untoward circumstances, he was so circumstanced, no symp-tons of lassitude are discoverable discernible, none of that weariness incident to ordinary cases, it being impossible to say when he resumed, or when he discontinued writing. The penmanship is of an antiquated & peculiar cast, no ways hand-some, yet its unvarying uniformity has a pleasing effect. The slightest blot is of rare occurrence; in a very few instances the pen is passed through a duplicate word; & in fewer still an erasure or a caret occurs. The same assiduity, with increased exact-ness, is observable in the folding pages of diagrams, with numerous let-ters & figures of reference: & although the paper is thin, yet any marks [redacted] are avoided. So that had he not left con-summate proofs of his application to [redacted] objects of superior impor-tance, this production of the rural mechanic would have shown he was an uncommon man. — This curious manuscript (at present in the Author's possession) forms 2 volumes in demi-quarto=, neatly bound; the 1st treating of Algebra; the 2nd & much the larger [redacted] the [illegible] domestic travels of John Harrison were

attended by his Son . The par

side the Son, who, like most young men who do

introduced to
having equipped himself with a laced suit, of the fash
-ion of that day, a thing mistaken by the royal

in this affair neither the Father

◇ George Hardinge esquire

one of Mixed mixed Mathematics

His fame being confirmed by his success, gave George 3d. had a curiosity to see & converse with a subject so remarkably distinguished, who being honoured with a message to that effect, waited on his Majesty at Buckingham House, [redacted] -ticular date of this interview cannot be ascertained; the Author conjectures it to have been after the return from Barbados, as it appears to coincide in time, that the King was found surrounded by his then infant family — through whom the old Man, plainly dressed, but with exemplary neatness, as he always was, passed unnoticed to so flattering a colloquy: [redacted] not know the world, had imagined it was necessary to be fine in order to [redacted] the King [redacted] children for a nobleman, they hung round him & caught his hand. — The conversations of those theologians & metaphysicians Dr. Beattie & the Chief Justice of Chester were preserved by such interlocutors, & Dr. Johnson's interview in the library was not lost to the public; but [redacted] nor [redacted] Son having a tincture of letters, what passed between the Monarch & a genius so gifted in his own department is unknown. It may be presumed however to have been gratifying both to the Prince & the subject; & it is not unlikely that the recollection of the condescension our Mechanician experienced [redacted] on this occasion contributed to the final resolution he took, when cut off from all hope of justice by the conduct of his personal enemies at the Board of Longitude, to address himself to that superior who was considered not less the support of the attribute in his palace than in Banco Regis. Note [illegible] here in Minor edition

The retired domestic habits of John Harrison were

—treme ; insomuch that he

Note at *

Nature, & nature's works, lay hid in night ;
God said, — let Newton be, & all was light —

Is the concise but splendid eulogy of Pope on this great man, who yet, in the common concerns of life, was liable to such inconsistencies as the anecdote ### alluded to shows. ~~With reminds me of a remark of Lord Chesterfield's, who, in addressing to the social qualities of military men, tells his son that "a captain of infantry is better company than Sir Isaac Newton."~~

—comes

docks for an astronomical

-frome. He might have been resembled to a some monastic
had he not been devoid of the austerity of those recluses.
With the exception of a friend or two now & then, he rarely
-ly ever saw any person but on business; which tended of
course to preclude any knowledge of him in his private character
but to those under his roof. Yet in proportion as it was
known, it would have gratified those who desire to think fa-
-vourably of human nature, for he was among the rare
instances of men of consummate endowments exempt from
those eccentricities, often as offensive to others as injurious to
themselves, which disgraced even the great Lord Bacon, & in a
different way, procured for the Author of Rasselas not
seldom the nickname of [redacted] wise major —
— The mention of whom reminds us, that he was wont to
observe of his friend Sir Joshua Reynolds, he was the most in-
-vulnerable man he ever knew. By which he explained he meant
one with whom if you should quarrel, you would find it the
most difficult to abuse, because there was nothing to lay hold
of in his character or which to vent your spleen. The same
remark applies precisely to our subject: his peculiarities
were so few & so trifling they left nothing for the envious to lay
hold of. He never affected to be above other men in common
things, & could turn from [redacted] the solution of a
problem to ordinary affairs without [redacted] that abstract-
which exposed Newton to ridicule when he once in his life went
a courting, * & proved fatal to Archimedes.

As he had wholly foregone those professional em-
-luments which the unrivaled accuracy of his [redacted]
[redacted] purposes would have insured him, he received, on the
recommendation of the most eminent scientific men, a pen-

— His Wife, of humble origin, but a respectable woman, was well adapted by her domestic merits to record his cares, & such a helpmate to a man engaged in a pursuit so much out of the common track, that called for his utmost attention was most meet; it tended to make this prudent pair avoid unpaid debts, & prevented small expences from accumulating to too much amount. —
Sep Days

The early associate of his labours, who is unknown to

-ces of money from time to time, by the Commissioners of Longitude: a considerable proportion of which was ex-pended in the experiments necessary to his ultimate pur-pose: & for the rendre a more upright Steward could not have been found in its application to the decent sup-port of himself & his family. [redacted] He had not a bottle of wine by him till he could say he bought it with his own money. Out door pleasures he knew not, & if he laid down the com-passes in an evening, his only solace was music, the cheapest of all enjoyments to the self-taught. — [redacted] in the week were unremittingly devoted to the best appli-cation of his talents. On the seventh, being a zealous Chris-tian, he attended divine service with his whole family, if possible: for a little particular preserved, is that he pre-ferred dining on a pie sent to the bakehouse, [redacted] in order that none might be hindered from a proper observance of spiritual injunctions.

The early biography of John Harrison becomes essen-tially connected with that of his only brother, James, [redacted] the public, unless perhaps by name. It is not often that two Brothers exhibit so strong a bias to the same objects as cha-racterized these remarkable men: with this difference that John (who was the elder) has left abundant proofs of his ma-thematical knowledge, & his perfect acquaintance with the scien-ces necessary to those who would excell in horological mechan-ics. — whereas, of James Harrison, not a note, or memo-randum, a pencil line, or any trace whatever remains to entitle him to the consideration of being more than a superior workman. Like John he was much conversant with music, which besides

was aiding to his ordinary business — that of a belfounder. — These rural, but not rusticated brethren, commenced the making of & completed four eight day clocks, numbered in their order; which both in their mechanism & external concomitants were exactly similar. The larger movements are of wood They have the gridiron or compound pendulum, one of the earliest inventions of our mechanician; & there is a provision for a remontoir. The seconds are shown by a revolving dial, in the manner more usual for the days of the month at present, which are also given. In a glazed compartment in the door of each of the cases is inserted an equation table, in the hand-writing of the elder Harrison, evincing his close application to the subject, his accurate knowledge of it, & also his patience in the use of his pen.

When the Candidate for the Parliamentary reward was honoured with the medal of the Royal Society, Sir Martin Folkes in his discourse on that occasion spoke of the surprising accuracy of two clocks (Nos 1 & 2) which having been kept in different parts of the house at Barrow had not varied from each other more than a second a month in ten years. A degree of precision so far surpassing any thing before known, that we may digress here to observe, it appears from his last pamphlet it had been his intention to have presented a regulator of his own construction to the Royal Observatory at Greenwich (& John Harrison was a person of his word) but the treatment he received from the Commissioners entirely frustrated this national advantage, as an astronomical clock, such a hand, we add, would have been thought by all any scientific men who had no sinister purpose to serve.

years

N 2 was taken to London by John, & continued to go with the same accuracy during his life; but was suffered to run down by his Son & successor, & remained entirely neglected near forty years. A neglect which cannot be defended. After his decease, a further interval of eleven years of course to rust occurred during the life of his Widow, who however was not in the least to blame. The Grandson of the inventor then placed it with Mr. Hardy of Clerkenwell to be cleaned & put in order. That skilful man succeeded to the purpose, & it is now reported to go with a precision not much different from its original merits. N 3 became the property of Elizabeth the only Sister of John & James, who married

mansion

These interesting clocks were not intended for sale, but became the property of different individuals of the family. No 1 (now in possession of the Author) which [redacted] the date of 1726, the year in which they lost their father Henry Harrison, & has the names of both the brothers on the dial, was retained by James, from whom it descended to his eldest son, Henry Harrison; whose widow sold it, & it passed through different hands. It continues to go, though not with sufficient accuracy for astronomical purposes; but this seems to have arisen from want of care, for the original pallets (technically so called) are wanting. [redacted] Mr. Jackson, a farmer at Hatfield in Yorkshire; the descendants of whom Nephew, of that name, the Author has reason to believe, possess it in the neighbourhood of Tadcaster. — No 4 was taken to Lincoln by the eldest daughter of James, whose married name was Plunkett to O & 362. A more successful attempt was afterwards made by some unprincipled fellow, to whom Mrs. Plunkett sold the case, the dial & the pendulum, with the help of which he probably vamped up some trumpery of his own, & passed it off at a high price, as the work of the Harrison's. The body of the clock, thus divested, was afterwards seen & bought purchased by the revd. Dr. Pearson, [redacted] who presented it to his royal highness the Duke of Sussex, in whose museum it now is.

To these specimens of the skill of the unitas fratrum should be added a turret clock over the stables of Lord Yarborough's seat at Brocklesby, made for his Lordship's [redacted] grand Uncle, Mr. Pelham. It has bears the name of James Harrison, & is believed to have been set up about the year 1727. From circumstances which have been explained in adverting to the superior science of

John, he must have furnished the drawings, & calculations for the movements, while James bore far the principal share in the manual application to the work. This supposition forces itself on the consideration, since it appears that about this time John was taking his plans to London, having turned his genius to the production of that machine, for the discovery of the Longitude, which was afterwards taken out to Lisbon.

The following general description of this curious Turret clock (which Sir Martin Folkes would not have overlooked, if he had known of it) is given by the Grandson of James the junior Brother (who has all the predilection of his family for the measuration of time & music).

"This clock has Two dials; & the workmanship is so exquisite, that though it has been going more than a hundred years, no one would suppose, by or looking at it, that it had gone more than a few months, — every part being as perfect, in appearance, as when first made, although the striking weight is sufficiently heavy. The pallets are made of lignum vitæ; but not having any friction, & of course no wear, they are precisely the same as at first, & must continue so for a thousand years, provided the clock be taken care of, & kept going. This clock goes without oil, & consequently never needs to be cleaned. The wheels are all of oak, except the pallet wheel, which is brass. The pinions are all brass, except the last in the going train, which has lignum vitæ rollers turning on brass pins. The pivots also are all brass, & the bushes in which they move are of boxwood, except the pallets axle, which has brass fulcrums resting on steps. The

& it is unpleasant enough

which would be looked for between two Brothers

-ing their clocks

weights are wound up once a week."

Allowing for some colouring, which the consanguinity of the Writer to the constructors of this masterpiece of mechanism, may have imparted to his account; as when he says it will last a thousand years; it may excite some astonishment in the modern enquirer, That a clock on such a scale was fabricated with so small a proportion of metal, & yet manifests such durability. Brass being easier worked than iron, & not subject to the same corrosion, seems to have insured it the preference. — The manner in which the two Brothers were remunerated for their labour was as singular as the materials of this clock: for though James, there is reason to believe, was properly recompenced with money: yet John received (we must suppose at his own request) a bond for £100, payable if ever he got the reward for the Discovery of the Longitude.

It would be undesirable to treat of any Disagreement between the Carthaginian Philosophi, had such been known, here to be obliged to add, that after the Clock had wholly settled in the Metropolis London, none of that friendly intercourse was kept up who had been thus identified & confederate in their labours. The cause of this schism was the same as that of the quarrel between the celebrated anatomists, William & John Hunter, viz. one brother assuming the merit of discoveries which the other claimed as his own. This is sufficiently confirmed by a passage in Cummins' "Elements of Clock & Watch-work" where the author says he found, by conversing with James, that he had had the principal share in the Theory of, & in project, while John took the manual or workman's depart

-ment. — A few questions, in the way of cross examination, would have shown this was wholly unfounded, & arose from the assuming pretensions of James, who was too much given to political demonstrations at the Pothouse. It is also contradicted by the known fact, that the principal improvements & undertakings of John, comprised in the second & third of the Machines, followed by the Timekeeper which was taken to Jamaica, were commenced & completed after all communication had ceased between the two Brothers. It is surely not less conclusive, that James when thus left to his own resources, never produced any further proofs of the superior skill he vaunted: no clockwork, by his hand, after that time, being known to be in existence. — Mr. Jackson had an enthusiastic regard for her brother John, which argues a reciprocal affection on his part: & that if James had not injured fraternal ties by such repeated offences on a tender point as his scientific reputation, he would not have been overlooked after his Brother's services. John had nothing stingy in his nature; when he finally left Lincolnshire for London, having a freehold cottage & garden at Barrow, & not choosing to sell, he made a present of it to an old & respected assistant: generosity was indeed a prominent feature in his character, & he least of all men deserved to be delivered in chains to the northern Aristocrat who measured others by his own meanness.

Very unlike the habit of Sir Isaac Newton, Dr. Parr, & some other remarkable men, John Harrison had almost the same aversion to tobacco as James I.st though not for an equivalent reason; & as smoking is considered so essential to village pastime, his distaste for it, added to the probability that he could spare

little time from his interesting pursuits, induces a belief that he was seldom met with at the public house, unless on parish business. On some such occasion, when a neighbour was sitting with his arm tilted over the back of a chair, so as to suggest a rude idea of a person playing on the instrument, our Mechanic catching at the thought, & perhaps to waive some dispute, humourously told him that, if ever he got the reward for the discovery of the Longitude, he would send him a pair of bagpipes. It is likely his friend would jeer him now & then about his promise. When the tables were turned by his success, he remembered & embodied the joke, by sending his neighbour, at the cost of ten guineas, a handsome pair of bagpipes. He also transmitted the same sum to the ringers; & no doubt his townsmen were highly proud of such a feat in a genius, who, though not born among them, did so much credit to the influence of the atmosphere in which he had been reared.

As a word, a sentence, or a paragraph, can may be premeditated in writing, it might be supposed to have always the advantage over oral explanations; but howsoever it may be accounted for, there are not wanting instances to the contrary, & John Harrison was one of those scarce exceptions; for he could explain himself distinctly by word of mouth, the Gentlemen who saw the Timekeeper taken to pieces admitted, & yet his written phraseology was peculiar & uncouth as is seen in his pamphlet entitled "A Description concerning such Mechanism as will afford a nice or true Mensuration of Time, &c." In this he declined that assistance which in his former days he took care to avail himself of. If it be asked how he could copy Professor Saunderson's Lectures verbatim, couched in simple language, as they

in memory,

[illegible] are, & get without any advantage accruing to his own mode of expressing himself? It is answered, that he was so wholly engrossed by the matter of those Discourses that the manner quite escaped him. This pamphlet likewise shows in no ordinary degree the common defect of ill educated men — a want of method & arrangement; a disadvantage objected to the writings of John Hunter (who had been like him a carpenter) but here it was caricatured by the abruptness of the transitions. That modesty an attribute of John Harrison in his prime, was not so in his decay; but the memento mori of an octogenarian. To those who understand chronometry & music may be added, by the hints & opinions interspersed, for they are still those of a man of uncommon genius, although the tide was on the ebb. No one was more ready to prefer the advantage of science to his own importance, & hence his readiness to point out any defect, he thought he had not overcome, drew from the writer of the article on his biography lately quoted, the enviable praise — that "he was candour itself." — It is fitting however to advert to a weak-side, as it may be thought by those who take up the works: his aversion to those clergymen who join the study of the mathematics to their sacred function is conspicuous, & soon accounted for; the ill treatment he experienced in his pursuits having often flowed from that quarter, especially as regarded Dr. Maskelyne & his predecessor: & this had a tendency to make him view with contempt persons who wanted to be thought proficients in Euclid, when they had better have bestowed their time on the Evangelists. — To attend indiscriminately to some defect in the community those feelings sentiments of antipathy which we may be justified in harbouring towards certain

insert here the paragraph

who did not increase in bulk from the time he attained his growth, was a handsome well

for the usages of their youth, his buckles were of iron, but upon the whole his appearance was very neat, & he might be seen regularly every morning walking up to the parlour glass with his coat-brush in his hand.

see a Direction

individuals of such profession, or description, is extremely com-
-mon, nor have men of the most cultivated intellect been ex-
-empt from this aberration, of which Swift, Smollet & Johnson,
were notorious instances.

below In person, John Harrison, [redacted]
set man, of a good complection, & the middle stature,
but he had none of [redacted] that vanity [redacted] which exposed even the
great Newton, "who, at fourscore, would bare his arm &
relate how dextrous he was in his youth at boxing." He
always wore a suit of snuff coloured [redacted] brown, & prefered stock-
-ings of the same teint, if they could be procured. His
coat, without a cape, was invariably fastened by the two
lower buttons, a particular which may be observed
to be common in the portraits of senior persons of Geory.
2.ds time. His wig was very becoming, as may be seen
in his portrait, & to avoid being incommoded by the pow-
-der, his spectacles were attached to a watchspring passed
under the caul. With the common predilection of senior's for
above The attacks of the goat, mentioned by his biogra[redacted]
-phers, were neither frequent nor severe, but he was always
afraid lest they should impede his labours. They could not
be ascribed to the least excess, for he was very moderate in his
table & habits, never exceeding one, or, at most two glasses of sherry
after dinner: ardent spirits were unknown to him, & supper was no
meal. Neither was he careless of his health, for a minor tra-
-dition preserved of him at Barrow was that he often walked in clogs
in wet weather; doubtless because he thought his constution
suffered from damp. Yet he seems to have much underrated
the goodness of his stamina, as the following extraordinary circum-
-stance may show. His age might be near eightytwo, & he had

The notes

not left the house [redacted] — for how many years is uncertain, unless at Christmas, to dine with his Son-in-law, a Barrister, could being called both going & returning. But one day in summer, his Grandson & the Maidservant being to go by water to Chelsea where his Wife then lived, he went out with them, to prevent their being imposed on. Having first assumed a very light, drab coloured, Top-coat, not at all the worse for wear, & having a short stick, he walked before them, a little stooping, but at a quick pace, to the Temple stairs. From whence, being dissatisfied with the offers of the watermen, he proceeded along the Strand in like manner to Hungerford stairs, without any indications of fatigue; & after seeing the Boy & the Servant safely embarked in a sculler, he got home without a halt, [redacted] or experiencing any inconvenience from the jaunt. It is certain he appeared in his usual health next day, & when it is considered that he had voluntarily immured himself in the house for a dozen years at least, & yet could traverse a large spacious Circle in the streets of London, for a trifling purpose, it may be asked, if our subject had not something peculiar in his constitutional structure? for although [redacted] are numerous instances of persons who, at that age, have walked twenty or thirty miles without difficulty, yet in all such cases the parties were more or less in the daily habit of taking exercise in the open air.

This ornament to science & his country having commenced his eighty fourth year died of an internal decay, which, as in consumptive cases, flattered the patient with hopes of the speedy restoration of his health, & he talked of future plans till the curtain dropped suddenly on so meritorious an actor in the drama of life. — His funeral was entirely

private; he had outlived the few individuals who might be numbered as his personal friends, & the sepulchral party was confined to his descendants & their connections, who saw his remains consigned to a vault on the south side of Hampstead churchyard, near the tower. But a difference of opinion arising between his Son & Daughter on the subject of a monument to occupy the site, &c. nothing was done till after the death of the latter in an interval of years. William Harrison then had a respectable memorial constructed, of the usual parallelogram or double cubical form, surmounted with a slab & railed in. It bore, in an oval compartment, the following inscription, which may be thought to smell rather of the oil in a different sense from the labours of Demosthenes.

We cannot defend the taste of the above, for the writer seems not to have duly appreciated & estimated the purpose of these mortality records, which, when in the native town, being designed for indiscriminate perusal, should not be encumbered with scientific expositions, intelligible only to a few. It may be said that the tomb of Archimedes would be a precedent in point; but that was a practical demonstration of the theory commemorated, promulgated.

Hampstead being at a convenient distance to form a walk much frequented by the Londoners in fine weather, it

them to know: but some remarks, that occurred here, were more fitly defered till a convenient season. contin^d at * p 441

gifted

appeared that after the completion of the monument with its inscription, numbers of pedestrians passengers deviated from the road through the village into the Churchyard, which is in the outskirts of the place, & approached by a narrow lane, attracted by the particulars just described. So many people congregated round the epitaph, that the Sexton assured a pos-ed a person who enquired on the subject, he was certain that not less than 10,000 had visited the spot in a short time. So marked a curiosity could not be ascribed to the ar-chitectural design of the tomb, which had no novelty in its form or dimensions, nor yet to the epitaph though rather out of the common track — but both the one & the other were identified years after his death with John Harrison who first discovered the Longitude at Sea. Even the vulgar appreciated the merit of this remarkable man much better than certain officials of superior education & facilities for becoming acquainted with what it behoved to O & 371 with the exception of the immortal Newton (born like him in the preceding) no scientific gene-us of the last century was more fully entitled to have a sufficient compartment on their walls alloted to the sculptor's chissel, in his behalf, than was the talent-ed individual to whom George 3d. extended the arm of his protection in an adverse hour. To the Dean & Chapter of Westminster years ago the reproach attaches, & in an aggregate corporation has adhered to successions of those func-tionaries — of having by no known token shown a sense of that part of their duty which supposes them conservators of the posthumous fame of eminent men in each important class of the community. "The Father of modern chronometry"

Francisco

[redacted] a pursuit of the first importance to astronomy & navigation, is unknown to the ecclesiastical society in reference. He who achieved what in [redacted] his time was thought almost miraculous — that which in the words of a contemporary "was rather wished, than hoped for;" & as [redacted] it was said of Shakespear, that he was Nature's Poet, John Harrison, adds the same pen, "might be called Nature's Mechanic:" — a designation which the Clergymen collectively named, do not appear to have troubled themselves about. For to this hour neither a statue, an alto, nor a basso relievo, nor a mural record of any kind, in the Abbey of St. Peter's, to wit, is found commemorative of the greatest Mechanic that has appeared in Europe since the age of Charlemagne, when clocks, deriving their motion from weights, began to supersede the antient clepsydra. — To allege that a greater degree of exactness has been attained in chronometry since he led the way, would be paying no deference to the Gentlemen of the Chapter & their Principal, who will not cavil at the common remark, that all merit must be relatively considered. But there is no occasion our subject should benefit by [redacted] the reservation. Let it remembered that in the first trial of the Timekeeper, such was the prepossession of the crew against the superiority of the new method over their precarious dependance on the log, that the Deptford man of war might have experienced the fate of the Litchfield before they knew where they were; had not the Captain, as [redacted] it [redacted] were out of politeness (for he would have laid five to one against the Watch) condescended to steer according to the prediction of the younger Harrison, which, to the great surprise & satisfaction of all on board was

exactly verified. Their approach to the several Islands in the ships track was as accurately foretold: lastly Jamaica itself was made within an error which, in that latitude, amounted to little more than a mile.

Here then a new æra commenced in navigation — the most important known since the invention of the compass, & the determination of the latitude. The means of solving the great problem of the Longitude only were wanting to the mariners security in traversing "the great sea deeps," & in approaching the Scylla & her whelps of some disastrous shore. And yet the memorable man who was instrumental in fulfilling what the commentators on holy writ would say was ordained by the Supreme from the beginning of time, is unknown to the Dean & Chapter of this antient foundation. Their ignorance (whether real or supposition we stop not to enquire, since the consequences are the same) can only be resembled to that of the Syracusans, who, in less than 140 years after his death, had so entirely forgotten the far famed defender of their City, that they denied his having been buried among them — an assumption which the Gentlemen of St. Peter's might with great propriety adopt in the present case, for what have they to show to the contrary? — in that sacred edifice by courtesy so often imagined to be dedicated not only to the Apostle whose name it bears, but to the retrospection of distinguished genius, — of the benefactors to their country, & to mankind. It might occupy several pages to show how widely the rule, or theory, which propriety would cling to, is departed from in practice. Insomuch that the pithy couplet in Hudibras

— what's the value of a thing

No one ever did, or ever will, question or doubt the propriety
of a monumental tribute to the meritorious but unfortunate
Major Andree. It is very different when a conspicuous bass
relievo

But so much money as 'twill bring?

will frequently obtrude on the recollection of any intelligent person who perambulates "the long drawn aisle" canopied by "the fretted vault," when he finds personages, totally unknown to fame, blended by the assistance of the reverend Committee with the heroes & great men whom the Goddess who steps on the earth, while her head reaches the heavens (in the magnificent idea of Virgil) hands over to that immortality which the collected blast of her clarion confers. — [redacted] records the fate of the honourable Thynne, a young man of fashion & fortune in the time of Charles 2.d who was assassinated in his coach in consequence of a private quarrel. We may sympathize in his tragical end destiny, but it behoves to recollect that it could in no degree whatever entitle him to the honours of the national Mausoleum. Congreve left £10,000 to the Duchess of Marlborough, who, it was obvious, had not the least occasion for it; but by this manœuvre he secured himself the remuneration he must have sought: which it would be difficult to say his works either could, or ought, to have insured him: or, if they had, yet by being so ungrateful to Thalia as to desire to be thought a gentleman, & not a poet, he had no business here. — As the catalogue of unknown, or obscure pretenders to the favour of the Goddess (every author worships) were better exchanged for the Account of the Abbey commonly sold to visitors; we will waive that view of affairs confined to the claims of the masculine sex; & a hop, a step, or a jump, brings the ladies under consideration. Who has not seen the handsome statue of Sir Robert Walpole's partner spouse which may be followed in due season, by that of Sir Robert Wilson's Lady; both highly esteemable women we believe, in the domestic circle, but certainly

what, not known beyond it? & it is reversing the order of things when females of real celebrity, like Charlotte Smith or Mrs Radcliffe, are enquired for in vain.

Not far from the Wife of that Statesman "the whole range of whose ideas was from politics to obscenity, & from obscenity to politics," we recognize with pleasure, Jonas Hanway (whose fame we knew well) but had this worthy man understood the honour intended, he would have vehemently remonstrated against the injustice of preferring him before his Neighbour in Red Lion Square, saying that he never pretended himself to more than patience & perseverance in those pursuits to which humanity & the love of his country had directed his attention: That hundreds of gentlemen might easily have been found fully adequate to such purposes, if they could but have been brought to prefer that course to the common predilections of idle, bred with a competency, & freed from the cares of a family — that Acts of this kind were totally different from those of genius, the especial gift of heaven, favoured by which, Mr Harrison had been enabled to accomplish what none had succeed in before, notwithstanding the vast importance of the object had produced such numerous aspirants. — How the Dean & Chapter would have dealt with such reasoning, they best know, & — he should like to learn why Music, a science which, on a grand scale, can only be enjoyed at much expence, with intervals of years, is allowed so marked a precedence within these walls, over skill in Mathematical Mechanics, the latter being beyond all comparison of more value to mankind — So thought George 3., who is well known to have been partial to the works of Handel,

439

but when a Tract on astronomy, by Dr Herschell, who was professionally a musician, happened to be in his way, he regretted that one so capable of directing our attention to the phenomena of the celestial sphere, should be confined to the modulation of sounds, & forthwith found a remedy, which we all know, & which posterity will appreciate.

This Prince would have said, as we do, that the two individuals who in the last, & in the present century, deserved most from the world [redacted] (always excepting Newton) were Sir Humphrey Davy & John Harrison: The former by the invention of the safety lamp, by which a most valuable class of labourers are protected from those fatal accidents to which the inflammable damp that pervades the subterranean excavations where they toil so often exposed them. We seldom reflect how much we are dependent on the collier & the miner for a large proportion both of the comforts & the luxuries of life. Nor could the discoveries of the Chymist have possibly been applied to a more beneficial purpose than they were by an original genius in these transmutation spells, as Robert Burns was in poetry, & — John Harrison in mechanics. The services of the latter, in the discovery of the Longitude by this process which may be safely predicted to remain the standard mode for the seaman through all future time, were of a magnitude exceeding so many considerations connected with the safety of hundreds of lives, & the security of millions of property annually, that no man (except the Baronet who divides the honour with him) was better entitled to have the records of his existence multiplied [redacted] in the most durable materials by his countrymen, than was "Nature's

to □ 6362

440 Mechanic" (so called above) — Yet while the shades of authors, artists, musicians & philanthrophists, are restored to form, & assigned "a local habitation," John Harrison is no where attempted to be revived in marble, he is wholly unknown where rational curiosity would have sought him. Do "they order these matters better in" St. Paul's? — At the time our subject departed this mortal scene, the Cathedral was neither then, nor during several years after [redacted] set apart for the same national purpose as the Abbey; which becoming too crowded with the memorials of those who were, & those who were not correctly entitled to admission, the suggestion arose, to apply the transept, nave & ailes, of the more modern temple to the same designation; but to avoid injuring the architectural effect, it was required that the sculptures introduced, at an uniform distances from the wall, should be larger than the life. Since that epoch, the chisels of eminent artists have given us, on a magnified scale, Dr Johnson, Sir William Jones, Sir Joshua Reynolds & Mr. Howard. But the Doctor, without regarding the prejudice to his own consequence, would immediately have said, had the question been put, that no literary excellence in any country could be fairly opposed to the benefit conferred on all nations where which an adequate knowledge had extended reached, by the safety lamp, & more especially by the accurate chronometer. That to make the effigy of a philologist like himself; a lexigographer; a concocter of moral bolusses, which few would swallow, thrust out that of a compounder of brass & steel for such invaluable purposes, was more iron-ceal than complimentary, if the substantial merits of the question were sifted to the bottom. So would have reasoned an authority often appealed to. Yet (in the sense intended here) "the

~~tility of those Commissioners, generally of learned designations,~~
~~who, like those, the Carthaginians, had more respect for their~~
~~own opinions than the good of their country, who were openly~~
~~opposed to the success of the Mechanics, & who refused him~~
~~the name & check on the competition after the first voyage, al-~~
~~though the common course of equity called for it to that fold-~~
~~smith's structure or Pope's sentiment~~

~~An honest man's the noblest work of God.~~

~~might have been successfully refuted here; for they were not~~
~~[illegible] but literary men in holy orders, whose~~
~~private prejudices & propensities were unaffected; that many~~
~~men in the lowest grades of society might have been more~~
~~fit to be deemed a noblest work of God, according to the~~
~~Poet's standard. But [illegible] [illegible] with~~
~~what power, unaffected or ignorance (or ignorance of mechan-~~
~~icians) [illegible] more remarkably, than in the [illegible] affair~~
~~of Lord Earl of Morton, with consequences. This [illegible]~~
~~[illegible] [illegible] Po-~~
~~[illegible] might have [illegible] with his~~
~~[illegible], but not the [illegible] of the Harrison made it necessary~~
~~to [illegible] with the [illegible] clause; for it is discovered that [illegible]~~
~~the principle [illegible] cause of the [illegible] being~~
~~paid, after the [illegible] of a [illegible] direction being given to~~
~~the labours of the [illegible] equally to the injury of the individ-~~
~~ual & [illegible] the country at large.~~

~~p. 24 □ This [illegible] of the [illegible] of the~~
~~the object [illegible] in [illegible] shape; for [illegible] after the~~
~~payment of the first moiety of the reward, not being aware~~
~~that they had only to wait a few months for the publication~~
~~of the [illegible] & [illegible] of the [illegible], they sent~~

Devolved on him, for simplifying the construction

"father of modern chronometry" is as unknown to the Dean & Chapter of St. Paul's as to their reverend brethren at Westmin-ster: although it is highly probable that there is not a clock & watchmaker throughout the empire but would be glad to contribute, according to his means, towards a statue of the best material & workmanship as a tribute of respect to a (self taught) genius who reflected so much honour on their occupation.

From ✳ p 434 new paragraph. It was the uncommon destiny of John Harrison, that being himself of a cast of mind & habits unfitted for the arduous scenes in which he would have had to contend with men more influenced by their private passions & propensities than the purpose for which they were appointed (of which their conduct towards their sovereign is a revolting proof) he yet was favoured with a Son who became emphatically his right arm & whose mathematical knowledge, presence of mind & firmness were well adapted to enable the Candidate to meet those difficulties which it was soon discovered the jealousy of their opponents (who were also their judges) would multiply in his progress. The Son also, & it proved signally important in the concatenation of events, was endowed with a robust constitution suited to the peculiar hardships he suffered in the return voyage from Jamaica. He inherited a respectable portion of his Father's genius, but he was devoid of that perseverance which formed so striking a feature in his character; & hence it is to be lamented that when those plans for simplifying the construction & reducing the price of the Timekeepers devolved on him, which he should have considered obligatory towards the public to follow up to the best of his abilities, although (in the military

442

3.^d excluding

profitable

phrase) he made some demonstrations, yet they resulted in nothing conclusive. He projected two Timekeepers of different powers of movement, the calculations for which are among his papers; the plates technically called were prepared, & are now in possession of his Son-in-law; a machine of his invention was also provided for cutting the teeth in the wheels. But these appearances only disappointed the expectations that were formed from them: & being indignant (with little reason) at a clause introduced into the Act, the 14th George [redacted] any person of consanguinity to the family [redacted] from benefiting by the rewards it provided, he left the field to Messrs. Mudge, Arnold & others, nothing further being known of his proceedings. — The clause mentioned was said at the time to have been inserted in consequence of a report that he purposed being becoming a candidate under the new regulations: but this persuasion is verified no further than the circumstance of his being engaged on two Timekeepers, which was the number required by this Act. — Another Trait of dissimiliarity between the Father & Son, was that the former pursued the subject con amore; & had he been a competitor under the Act in reference, he would have counted nothing of the prohibitory clause, but been satisfied with the honour of the victory, & with seeing it recorded. On the contrary his successor could not be wrought on if a lucrative speculation was out of the question.

A cause of hindrance to his regular pursuits had long been the active part he took in the affairs of the Foundling Hospital; which in an abstract view was honourable to his humanity & other virtues, but while gentlemen could be found who had not the same considerations to preclude them

from devoting a compleat portion of their time [redacted] (like Jonas Hanway) to the concerns of the Charity, it becomes difficult to defend such an encroachment on labours of a quite different description, which it might be said both Government & the mercantile Majesty had a right to look to from him. — In coincidence with this view, his attention, ever unreasonably directed that way, had drawn complaints from his Father, by the hindrance it occasioned. Though certainly John Harrison (who was contemporary with Captain Coram) wished as well to the institution as a benevolent man would.

This connexion, [redacted] which formed so material a feature in the portrait of William Harrison, dates from 1758, when at the request of the Governors, he procured & superintended the replacing of a bad clock with a new & good one: This circumstance having brought him acquainted with the Gentlemen, who knew him to be a musical man, the extreme deficiency of the children in psalmody, though they had a singing master, was placed under his revision. It appears he devoted one day in the week to the instruction of these charity foundlings; & with so much success, that it may be in the recollection of some senior persons the children aided by the organ acquitted themselves so well as brought it to the reputation of being the best church music in London. It may also be remembered, we hope with some gratitude, by those infants, now dispersed in the world, if living, that, on sundays, Mr. Harrison took his station in the middle of the gallery appropriated to them, playing the organ, & beat time, while he noted their performance. An important consequence of this in-